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*A Theory of Development and Heredity.* By HENRY B. ORR, PH. D., Professor at the Tulane University of Louisiana. New York and London: Macmillan & Co., 1893. pp. vi+255.

The preëminently distinctive and dominant science of the present century is biology. This is evident not only from the immense amount of intellectual energy expended on biological investigation, and the number and importance of the discoveries in this line, but also from the influence which the facts, theories, and conceptions of this science is exercising in all fields of thought. That the struggle for existence will explain in great measure, if not indeed altogether, the elimination of unfavorable variations and the preservation of favorable ones, is generally accepted among biologists, but as to the origin of these variations there is the widest difference of opinion. Since the publication, a few years ago, of Weismann's theory of heredity, according to which the transmission of acquired character is pronounced impossible; the scientific world has been divided into two hostile camps—the opponents of this thing asserting, and its advocates denying that the impressions of the environment on the individual organism are inherited by its descendants. Professor Orr takes his stand in the anti-Weismannian camp and explains the phenomena of development and heredity by the laws of habit *i. e.* the perfecting of a process by continued repetition of the process.

The book shows a tendency at some points to take the assumption of physiological psychology for conclusions and to confuse the nervous and the psychic. In general, however, it is clear and thoroughly scientific in spirit. The style is excellent. It is a thoughtful and suggestive work and will be read with interest and profit by both the general reader and the special student. The modesty and candor with which the author sets forth his conclusions is in happy contrast with the dogmatic assertiveness displayed by many recent writers on scientific philosophic subjects.

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## NOTES

One cannot fail to be surprised in looking over the second edition of *King's Hand-Book of New York City* (Moses King, Boston, Mass. Price \$2.) at the amount of interesting and valuable information compressed within the limits of a thousand octavo pages. The book has, moreover, over a thousand illustrations of points of interest and notable buildings in the city, and it is only fair to say that the illustrations are uniformly good. New York, as the metropolis of the new world, has a great interest for all. The book is well written and thoroughly entertaining.

Mr. Henry Clark Johnson, until recently president of the Central High School, Philadelphia, has prepared for use in American colleges a revision of Shuckburgh's edition of Cicero's *Laelius*—(Messrs. Macmillan & Co.). Mr. Shuckburgh used the text of Dr. J. S. Reid, and the reviser states that he has "corrected some errors, and made some few changes in words, punctuation, and orthography." The notes are based upon those of the English editors, but Mr. Johnson has made such additions to the commentary as he deemed necessary to fit the book for its special purpose, and has added references to the grammars of Allen and Greenough, and Harkness. The commentary occupies about fifty-eight pages and seems to be sufficient for school purposes. The reviser states that he has corrected numerous misprints of the English editions, but a somewhat hurried examination of the vocabulary shows that it contains many errors and inconsistencies in the matter of the quantities. Thus, for example, *arbitratus* has the penult marked short; *cura*, the ultima long; *debeo* and *debilito* both have the antepenult marked short; the penult of *dare* is marked long. In general, the quantity is indicated in a happy-go-luck way, so that it is impossible to see why some vowels are marked while others are left unmarked. Thus, on the same page the first vowel of *ceterus* is unmarked while the first vowel of *cogito* is marked long. The spelling "Sylla", p. 165, looks odd nowadays in a text-book.

Interesting reading matter will be found this month on the advertising pages at the end of this magazine.

*The Temple Shakespeare*, (New York, Macmillan & Co., 45 cents each vol.) now includes in rarely dainty little volumes, "Much Ado About Nothing", "Love's Labour's Lost", "The Merry Wives of Windsor", "Two Gentlemen of Verona", "The Tempest", "The Comedy of Errors", and "Measure for Measure." Where they can be afforded we cordially recommend the use of the separate volumes of this edition in school classes for the sake of the æsthetic cultivation that the students must get from using and owning such beautiful books.

We call especial attention to the classified list of new publications that appears from month to month on the last pages of the *SCHOOL REVIEW*. The list this month is especially full and suggestive. Great efforts have been put forth to make this list of value to our readers as a monthly bibliography of new publications of special interest to teachers in higher schools. In this effort we have met with generous co-operation on the part of the publishers. An examination of the list this month will, we believe, make our readers of our own opinion, that no journal now gives a more valuable, and more easily used current bibliography.

Praise is superfluous for the best. The appearance of Skeat's Edition of *Chaucer* (Clarendon Press; New York, Macmillan & Co.), is distinctly an event in the world of letters. The work is to be complete in six splendid volumes, three of which have already appeared. Vol. I commences with a Life of Chaucer, containing all the known facts and incidents that have been recorded, with authorities for the same, and dates. It also contains the "Romaunt of the Rose," and the minor poems, with a special introduction and illustrative notes. Vol. II contains "Boethius" and "Troilus," each with a special introduction. The text of "Troilus" is a new one. Vol. III contains "The House of Fame", "The Legend of Good Women", and "The Treatise on the Astrolabe", with special introductions. Succeeding volumes are to contain the "Canterbury Tales", the "Tale of Gamelyn", and all needed helps for reading Chaucer, such as remarks on pronunciation, grammar, scansion, glossarial index, and index of names. The fame of the distinguished editor's learning makes this edition a necessity for all serious students of English; at the same time there is a clearness and charm of style about the introductions and notes that will attract anyone at all interested in our literature. Admirable paper, typography, and presswork, and a reliable buckram binding add substantially to the value of this altogether worthy collection of our great poet's works. Through these volumes a knowledge of his merit must inevitably be much extended.

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## CURRENT EDUCATIONAL LITERATURE

*A Taste for Good Reading.* By PROF. CHARLES ELIOT NORTON in Preface to Vol. II of "Heart of Oak Books".

A taste for good reading is an acquisition the worth of which is hardly to be overestimated; and yet a majority of children, even of those favored by circumstances, grow up without it. This defect is due partly to the fault or ignorance of parents and teachers; partly, also, to the want, in many cases, of the proper means of cultivation. For this taste, like most others, is usually not so much a gift of nature as a product of cultivation. A wide difference exists, indeed, in children in respect to their natural inclination for reading, but there are few in whom it cannot be more or less developed by careful and judicious training.

This training should begin very early. Even before the child has learned the alphabet, his mother's lullaby or his nurse's song